

MAY



Chili/Chocolate



Pancake Breakfast



Relocation Brunch

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

ETC, which stands for Events that are Totally Cool, help energize Countryside Church and its membership! Their mission is to bring Countryside members together in social gatherings and events filled with fun and fellowship. They blend together traditional and well-attended events, while continually creating new adventures and gatherings which allow our membership to branch out and enjoy each other's company.

We welcome members to help out with any of our signature events, and we are always keeping an eye out for those members that want to join a creative and involved ETC board.

Future ETC Events

- Fall Family Festival – October 22 - New event coming in the fall.
- Chili/Chocolate Contest – Sunday, January 22, 2017- Always a hit!
- Countryside's Hors D'oeuvre Contest – Saturday, April 4, 2017- One of ETC's signature events & a great gathering experience.

UPCOMING EVENT

Storm Chasers – May 29 (Family Fun Night). Working with the Family Activities Committee, we will head to the Werner Park baseball field for a casual family outing. Come and enjoy the game, fireworks, kids running the bases, hot dogs and more fun. Sign up at the Information Desk. General Admission on right berm \$7. Please no lawn chairs, blankets only.



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WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

8787 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68114
Phone - 402-391-0350
Email - office@countrysideucc.org
Website - www.countrysideucc.org
Facebook - www.facebook.com/CountrySideOmaha/

Program Staff

Contact information for program staff can be found on individual ministry pages.

Ministers

Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.
Senior Minister, ext. 113
erice@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Chris Alexander
Associate Minister, ext. 130
chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Assistant To The Ministers

Gayle Noble
Interim Ministers' Assistant, ext. 103
gaylen@countrysideucc.org

Business Office

Dan Loven
Dir. of Admin & Communication, ext. 102
danl@countrysideucc.org

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steveg@countrysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt
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Church Clerk
jerryg@countrysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
Building/Property Coordinator
brianp@countrysideucc.org

Audio/Visual

Nicholas O'Bradovich,
AV Tech Leader
nicholaso@countrysideucc.org

Ben Semisch,
Videographer
bens@countrysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

Rita Otis
Minister of Spiritual Direction, ext. 129
rmotis@outlook.com

WELCOME

We would like to take this opportunity to offer you a warm Countryside welcome. We are a community that places great value on welcoming ALL to an open and affirming community where we celebrate and rest in a God who loves us beyond our wildest imaginations. We invite you to journey with us as we work together with the guidance of the Spirit, seeking those places where we are called to participate with God toward the fullest expression of who we are created to be. As a congregation of the United Church of Christ we believe the greatest expression of the Body of Christ is found in the local congregation, and each person in our community has a unique conversation with God that serves the whole. Countryside is a place where God is still speaking to us and to our community. Each of us is called to discern that voice and act on that discovery. We welcome you and invite you to participate with us in this calling.

OUR MISSION

We are an inclusive, open and affirming family of faith, welcoming all to God's table of love and acceptance. We are diverse, yet united by Christ's example. We care for one another, support one another and challenge one another to become all that God creates us to be. We work together to nurture our community and to promote peace and justice in our conflicted world.

I AM NEW TO COUNTRYSIDE

Sunday Services - 9 AM Classical Service and 11 AM Jazz Service

Nursery - childcare (ages 0-2) is available at both Sunday services and for Wednesday evening programs. The Nursery is located on the upper level along the main hallway towards the church's northwest entrance.

Common Grounds Coffeehouse - Between services from 10 AM to 11 AM we invite you to the Commons directly off the Foyer for coffee, donuts and fellowship.

Information Station is located in the Foyer. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for any church activities, please stop by the Information Station.

Amplified Hearing Devices are available at the Information Station in the Foyer.

Sunday School/Children's Church - see Children's Ministries, page 7.

Free Gift - If you are a first time visitor at Countryside, we invite you to introduce yourself to one of the pastors in the foyer after the services so we might offer you a gift of our gratitude for visiting with us.

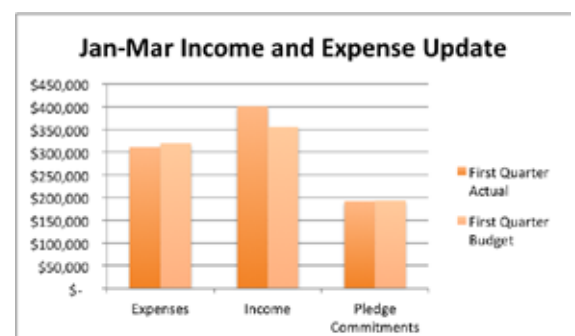
Box, Basket and List - The Box, Basket and List, are three ways that Countryside shares our gifts with one another and our community: The Box is a way to share our material possessions with one another and is located in the Foyer; the Basket is Countryside's way of sharing financial offerings with our community for the support of our ongoing program ministries. The baskets are located at the back of the Sanctuary. And the List is the way we share of our time and talent with one another and is printed in the Order of Worship.

Rest Rooms - Rest rooms are available on the main level by the offices and on the lower level by the elevator and by the gym.

Countryside Email list - If you would like to be on Countryside's weekly email list, please contact the church office at office@countrysideucc.org or call 402-391-0350.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Board of Trustees oversees the financial and property concerns for Countryside, including stewardship, budgeting process and regular review of the financial position of the church. The graph to the right is an update of the church expenses and income for the first quarter of 2016. As of the end of March, the expenses are running below budget, the income is running above budget and the pledged commitments are right on target.



If you have any questions about the finances of the church, feel free to reach out to Tim Kerrigan, Chair of Board of Trustees, Phil Johnson, Church Treasurer, or Dan Loven, Director of Administration and Communication.



SPOTLIGHT

Countryside's Stephen Ministry Program

Stephen Ministry is an active lay ministry program within our church that provides confidential Christian support to those who are facing difficulties in their lives. Stephen Ministers have received special training to become good listeners and to provide caring support to others as they work through a difficult transition. The Pastoral Care Ministry would like to thank Stephen leaders Donna Knutson and Molly Anderson for their excellent leadership and commitment to our 2016 Stephen Ministry Training Class. We are welcoming nine new Stephen Ministers to Countryside this month! They will be commissioned during worship on May 15. If you or anyone you know would benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, or would simply like more information, contact Jan Brown, Pastoral Care Coordinator.

CONGRATULATIONS

Julia Olynyk, our jazz worship vocalist, and her husband Joe, had their first child on April 10. Leo Robert, welcome!

Veronica and Ryan Cole welcomed Winston James to their family on April 22. Blessings to this little boy and his delighted parents.

Patrick Collins, our former Youth Minister, is being ordained Sunday, May 29 at 9:30 a.m. at Vine Congregational Church, 1800 Twin Ridge Road, Lincoln, NE. Anyone is welcome to come and help celebrate this important day in Patrick's life.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Ron Gass's celebration of life will be a luncheon in Memorial Hall on Saturday, May 14, from 12-2pm. We offer our prayerful support to his wife Brownie and family.

Don Schonberg's funeral was April 23rd at Countryside with Eric Elnes officiating. May God's peace and wonderful memories be with Don's family.

FAME

F.A.M.E. (Friday Art and Music Experience) Shhhh!!! It's a BIG secret! BIG things are coming to FAME in the near future and we do mean BIG! BIG!! BIG!!! Very soon, on a Friday morning in Memorial Hall at 10:00 a.m., a BIG surprise will be revealed to FAME participants! Not a regular attendee to FAME? No problem! This group of seniors is open to anyone who enjoys water color painting, or coloring, a good cup of coffee, delicious treats, listening to various types of music, and great conversation. Did we mention a BIG surprise is coming?

Countryside is a caring congregation that offers support to its members in numerous ways. Along with our pastors, who are always willing to provide you with compassionate direction, care and advice when called upon to do so, we have a wonderful support system with our Care Team and Stephen Ministers.

Care Team

The Care Team consists of thoughtful, generous members of the congregation who provide various types of comfort or assistance to those in our church family experiencing times of hardship.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is an active lay ministry program within our church that provides confidential Christian support and hope to those who are facing difficulties in their lives.

AGAPE

The AGAPE group has been a ministry of love and support for many decades, providing a warm and loving fellowship opportunity following memorial or funeral services.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Pastoral Care contact Jan Brown.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 117

Email: janb@countrysideucc.org

SYRIAN FAMILIES ARE ON THEIR WAY TO OMAHA

Countryside will be sponsoring two families with a target date of June. A steering committee has been formed and will be getting information out about how to donate items for the apartment, to volunteer to help with the collection of donations and with the move in day, as well as helping with groceries and ongoing support for the families through the end of the year. Co-chairs are Joyce Dixon and Deb Hickman.

Direct all inquiries to Kelly Keller at kellyk@countrysideucc.org or calling 402-391-0350 and we will get you plugged in!

Please see the church's website for a partial list of the items we need donated. www.countrysideucc.org/caring-together/refugee-support/ You can sign up to bring the item so that others can then bring other needed items. In addition to this list, in the foyer we will have a "giving tree" with tags identifying smaller items you can purchase.

Stay tuned to the ways you can help!





UPCOMING EVENTS

May 12 - 7PM in the Sanctuary: When Doing Nothing is Not an Option

Dr Sehr Haroon, MD and Abdullah Alalo will tell their stories from Syria. Dr Haroon has started a nonprofit, S.E.H.R Mission, to send needed supplies to Macedonia to help with refugees there, while also arranging for mission trips for individuals wanting to go and help with the flood of refugees.



Dr. Sehr Haroon

Abdullah is a Syrian refugee living in Omaha who tells his story of his harrowing journey from a newly married medical student with his life in front of him to a refugee delivering pizzas in America.



Abdullah Alalo

The question and answer portion will also include Sara Gilliam, whose personal mission has led to donations of thousands of baby carriers for refugees to more safely transport their children and Lacey Studnicka of the Lutheran Family Services' Refugee Resettlement program. This event is free and open to the public; a free will donation will be collected for the SEHR Mission.

FALL FAITH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

Established in August 2004, the Center for Faith Studies provides a study of what it means to be a faithfully inquisitive community of people engaged in the created world and our ever-evolving understanding of it through theology, humanities and the sciences. In addition to ongoing adult education classes and book groups, the Center supports an annual lecture series, drawing from scholars, authors, artists, scientists and theologians nationwide, as a form of service and outreach which draws people to Countryside from across the city and regional area. Videos of past speakers are always available to view through the Center for Faith studies website.

The Fall Center for Faith Studies Lecture Series has been announced. Get these on your calendars now!

The Center for Faith Studies provides learning opportunities for the faithfully inquisitive Countryside Community. We encourage lifelong learning, growth and deepening understanding utilizing current scholarship through the CFS community lecture series, Wednesday Night Alive events, adult education classes and community partnerships.

Racial Justice Book Group

Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Commons. Readings and videos on racialized America. Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone.

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring your lunch and learn. Drop in any time! Current series: The Old Testament. Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. (Great Courses)

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Reading Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys by Victor Rios. Final class on May 4. Resumes in September.

Adult Ed Forum

Sundays at 10:10 AM in the Moderator's Room. Come whenever you can! Current series: The Other Side of History: Daily Life in the Ancient World. Professor Robert Garland. (Great Courses)

Omaha Earth Vigil

Monthly meditation over shared grief, faith and hope for the planet. We meet on first Thursdays 6:30 to 7:00 PM in the Chapel. Sponsored by Community of Mindful Living.



August 4

Roger Gabriel, Master Educator Chopra Center for Wellness. The Law of Dharma - Fulfilling Life's Potential.

August 25

Melvin Bray - The Stories in Which We Find Ourselves. Reframing our narratives to release the -isms from our world.



September 15

Precious Davis - Coming Home: Creating Brave Space for Inclusion.

October 6

Phyllis & Orlando Rodriguez - In Our Son's Name. Fifteen years after 9/11 meet this couple who reached out to the mother of one of the 9/11 attackers after losing their son in the Trade tower collapse.



November 10

Gary Ferguson - The Carry Home: Lessons from America's Wilderness.

For more information see www.centerforfaithstudies.org

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact **Kelly Keller**.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 119

Email: kellyk@countrysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Center-for-Faith-Studies-120882397136>

JOURNEY GROUPS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

What is Converging Paths?

The Converging Paths Ministry strives to strengthen the church community - both Countryside and the larger Church - by supporting faith formation and leadership formation through small groups (Journey Groups). The Converging Paths Ministry is developing small group resources based on the solid theological foundation of *The Phoenix Affirmations*. Members of Journey Groups have said that they believe they make better, more Christ-led decisions in their lives. Ask Terri Vincent about Converging Paths. she would love to tell you more!

Sacred Journeys Group Looking for Countryside Members!

Would you like to form relationships with Christians from other denominations and congregations? There is an inter-denominational Journey Group that meets here at Countryside. They have members from several local churches and are hoping that a few people from Countryside will join them. This Sacred Journeys group meets at 5 PM in the Moderator's Room on the second Sunday of each month. Let Terri Vincent know if you are interested, and she will put you in contact with them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Place To Call Home - A Seven-Part Sermon Series

Join us as we continue a new sermon series - A Place to Call Home. It has been said that "we are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spirit beings having a human experience." (Teilhard de Chardin) In this series, we will explore what it means to be truly at home in this world by examining the interplay between physical and spiritual spaces in the Bible. You can continue the conversation and explore more deeply by joining a Journey Group. Contact Terri for more information. .

Journey Groups are small groups that meet weekly to discuss and discover what our Still speaking God is calling us to do in our lives, community and the world. In the process, we form deep relationships offering support to one another through life's journey.

A Place to Call Home

Several Journey Groups are following the sermon series, *A Place To Call Home*, discovering what it means to be truly at home in this world by exploring the interplay between physical and spiritual spaces in the Bible.

Darkwood Brew

New Journey Groups are forming that watch and discuss *Darkwood Brew* videos. Join in and dig into some provocative theological discussions while developing lasting relationships.

Gifts of the Dark Wood

This Journey Group explores Dr. Elnes' latest book, *Gifts of the Dark Wood*. Learn more about how we meet God in the depth of our struggles.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Journey Groups contact **Terri Vincent**.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 121

Email: terriv@countrysideucc.org

Buck a Bagel Dollar a Donut

Enjoy Espressos, Smoothies and more
by Jo-on-the-Go Espresso Catering

May 15
Pentecost
Sunday

between services
in the Courtyard

see page 10 for details



Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

Sunday, May 29

Show your Sunday School
Teacher a little love!

see
page 7
for details



COUNTRYSIDE
RELOCATION CAMPAIGN

PLEDGE NOW

Invest in the future of Countryside and our Mission.
Pledges are due June 1, 2016

www.countrysideucc.org/relocation



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last COYO Sunday of the Year

The last day for COYO Jr High and COYO Sr High is Sunday, May 15. COYO Sr High will be celebrating graduating seniors with a slide show and writing on rocks. Make sure you come so you can wish them well.

Baccalaureate Sunday is May 15

Any graduating high school student connected with Countryside is invited to participate. Seniors will be recognized at the 11:00 service. For more information, click on this link.

<http://goo.gl/forms/4byKKrcPsW>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mission Trip Commissioning - May 29 at the 11:00 service

Come to church so that you can come to the front to be prayed for as you head into the woods of the Boundary Waters.

*Garage Sale Drop-off at Millard Lumber *May 21 * 9:00AM - 12:00PM*

Bring donations to Millard Lumber (12900 I St, Omaha, NE 68137) and pull into the indoor lumber yard. Drive past the lumber into the next room where COYO will have a semi waiting for you. Furniture is accepted. No T-Shirts, Sleepwear, or Underwear. No infant/toddler clothes, furniture, or toys. No exercise equipment or CRT TV's. Pick-ups also available.

COYO JR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COYO Jr High Hiking Trip Meeting

Sunday, May 15 at 4:30PM. All students going on the Colorado hiking trip and their parents are invited to an informational meeting. Subject will be the schedule, what to pack, and other tips for a successful hiking trip.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hiking in Colorado - July 10-15

Four days of backpacking all around the spectacular rock formations in the Lost Creek Wilderness of Colorado. Take in the creative work of God and listen for what God has to "say" to you without your cell phone. Cost is \$150. For more info and to sign up, go to <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh/wilderness>.

CONGRATULATIONS 2016 CONFIRMANDS

Cole Douglas Bisson
Cole Daniel Clippinger
Kyle Dean Clippinger
Will Cohen
Reagan Elizabeth Fehr
Max Frost
Dmitry Gass

Malik William Gillespie
Bethany Krenzer
Rebecca Aase Kucera
Anna Maria Kuyper
Lucy Vivian Murrell
Maximilian Jacob Murrell
Rachel McKenzie Minor

Ella Paulson
Jonathan David Reinert
Nicholas Daniel Reinert
Jeffrey James Schulz
Isabella Paige Tyler
Lan Dao Volberding



Countryside Youth (CoYo) serves students in grades 7-12. Junior and senior high students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of activities that develop community, encourage spiritual growth, and serve the wider community in Omaha. Monthly events and summer trips are offered to enhance youth experiences.

Confirmation - on summer recess till fall

Confirmation meets Wednesdays at 7 PM and Thursdays at 3:45 PM during the school year. It is a two-year program for 7th and 8th graders to explore the Phoenix Affirmations, the Bible, and the church.

Mission Trips

Mission trips help students get hands-on faith experiences. Mission trips include Pine Ridge, inner city, foreign country, and wilderness trips that explore God's creation.

COYO Sr High

COYO Sr High meets during the school year on Sunday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships, serve the community

COYO Sr High 606 - on summer recess till fall

Exploration of the Christian Faith from the ground up. Everyone in high school is welcome to attend. Come once or come every week. Meets Wednesdays at 6:06 PM in the COYO Room.

COYO Jr High

COYO Jr High meets during the school year on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships, serve the community together, and grow in faith.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Youth Ministries contact Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 111

Email: willh@countrysideucc.org





CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

May 1 - Family Worship

Children remain in the sanctuary with their families .

May 8 - Sunday School

In various classrooms (see below) Lesson: Dear Friends- Paul's Letters

May 15 - Children's Church

Children begin in the Sanctuary until the procession to the chapel.

May 22 - Sunday School

In various classrooms (see below). Lesson: Paul's Letter to the Corinthians

May 29 - Special Sunday School/Teacher Appreciation

Lesson: Ambassadors for Christ

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

Lower Level

(take stairs or elevator one floor down)

9:00 Service

Room 114B - Grades K-6

11:00 Service

Room 117 - Grades 2-3

Room 114B - Grade 4

Room 112 - Grades 5-6

Upper Level

(same as the sanctuary, chapel, and nursery)

9:00 Service

Room 215 - Pre-Kindergarten

11:00 Service

Room 214 -Pre-Kindergarten

Room 213 - Grades K-1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Core 56 will continue meeting through the summer months! We will plan to meet Wednesdays from 6:30 PM until 7:30 PM unless otherwise adjusted for particular activities or adventures. Our Lock-in is scheduled for May 20 when we will spend a bit of time shoring up our service ideas for the summer as well as running around the empty church being generally loud and hilarious. A note about our summer attendance for Core 56: all incoming 4th graders (5th graders in the fall) are welcome to attend our summer activities, as are all outgoing 6th graders.

Vacation Bible School 2016 will be held July 11-15. During VBS, our students spend time exploring scripture through storytelling and then participate in crafts and science experiments that expand the scripture and apply it to everyday life. Our leaders invite our students to ask questions and seek answers from leaders, other students, and experiences. We incorporate music, physical activity, snacks, crafts, and experiments to create a community building environment for kids to share and develop their faith and relationship with God. Save the dates. Registration opens in late May.

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation is May 29. Our Sunday School teachers work so hard to guide our students in prayer practices and faith formation, so be sure to give the following people a little love:

9 AM Sunday School

Pre-K: Karen Fitzgerald and Beth Anderson

K-6th grade: Deb McCollister

11 AM Sunday School

Pre-K: Sarah Schultz and Bethany Krenzer

K-1st: Sue Coffey and Ingrid Howell

2nd-3rd: Stacey Carnazzo

4th: Margaret Gilmore

5th-6th: David Holtzclaw and Anji Stanek

Nursery Ministry is looking for dedicated church members to keep this important ministry going! While children are ALWAYS WELCOME in our community worship, our volunteers help to provide care in a safe environment as an alternative.

Children's Education offers programs designed to inspire, explore, and develop a solid faith foundation. Through story, discussion, and experiential activities, our students embark on a Christian path encouraged by enthusiastic study, adventurous approach to Scripture, and cultivation of a strong faith community.

Nursery

Childcare is available during Sunday worship for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds. Our nursery volunteers are trained and have passed background checks.

Acolytes

Our Fireflies bring the light of Worship into the Sanctuary each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. If you are interested in your child becoming an acolyte, contact Rebecca.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is a short summer camp designed to immerse our students in a community experience of scripture stories and activities. In 2016, it will take place July 11-15.

Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

On Wednesday nights, K through 4th grade students meet for Holy Moly! A Sparkhouse curriculum that teaches Bible stories with multimedia, crafts and activities, and storytelling.

Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

During the school year, our 5th and 6th grade group delves into scripture study of Jesus' ministry and work. We also fellowship at lock-ins, movie nights, and group suppers.

Sunday School

Our students and teachers engage with scripture and activities with our in-house curriculum through Countryside's theology and faith practices. Sunday School is offered for students pre-k through 6th grade.

Family Worship

Typically held on the first Sunday of each month, Family Worship offers opportunity to share scripture, message, and communion as a family! Children's Bibles, books, and age-appropriate activity bags are available.

Children's Church

This child-centered Worship celebrates our faith stories with songs, scripture, and discussion while honoring faith practices like Communion, prayer, and stewardship! It's open to children 5 years-old through 6th grade.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Children's Education contact **Rebecca Morello**.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 109

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



MUSIC MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director of Music Ministries Search Committee

The Search Committee is bringing in a candidate for our Director of Music Ministries May 9-12. The candidate will have the opportunity to direct some of the choirs, meet with various staff members, tour our church, see some of Omaha, and get acquainted with Countryside Community Church. We are looking forward to showing all that this church has to offer.

Adult Choirs

May 8 at the 9:00 service, the combined adult choirs will present their annual major works concert. This year they will do *The Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi. This lively work is one of the most beloved works of the Baroque era. In addition to our choirs, featured soloists are Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens, France Blanchard, Emily Wadhams, Jean Macintosh, and Brenda Stursma. Interim Director of Music Bruce Blanchard will conduct. Alex Ritter will be the keyboardist along with a string quartet. You will not want to miss this.

Our adult choirs will end their season on a literal and metaphorical high note. The combined choirs will sing for both services on May 15 and May 22.

Beginning May 29, we will feature various soloists and ensembles throughout the summer. Would you like to be one? Contact Bruce Blanchard at bblanchardh@gmail.com to get on the schedule. Who knows when that Hollywood talent scout will be in the congregation?

Thank you!

Thank you to our Music Directors who have been helping during the interim while we have been searching for our new Director of Music. If you see them around Countryside make sure to tell them how much you have enjoyed their talents!

Countryside church has one of the most celebrated music ministries in Omaha. We have many excellent opportunities for expressing our faith through music. Our music rooms are bustling with activity on weekdays and Sundays as our singers prepare for worship services. Each group participates at least monthly in worship services.

Note: Children's choirs are now on summer recess and will resume in late August.

Cherub Choir

The Cherub Choir is for children in Kindergarten through second grade. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings 5:15-6:00 PM. This group sings monthly in worship.

Pilgrim Choir

Pilgrim Choir is for children in the third through sixth grades. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings 5:15-6:00 PM. This group sings monthly in worship.

Covenant Choir

Covenant Choir is for middle school youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:00 PM before Confirmation in the Junior Choir Room. This group sings monthly in worship.

Faith Singers

Faith Singers is a choir for grades 9-12 and regularly rehearses each Sunday from 4:45-6:00 PM. This choir sings most weeks during the school year for one of our worship services.

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir is a "traditional" church choir for post-high school youth and adults. This choir sings each week for one of the worship services. Regular rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:25-7:55 PM.

Spirit of Grace

Spirit of Grace is a group of adults of all ages that explore contemporary church music. This group rehearses on Wednesdays from 8:05-9:05 p.m. Spirit of Grace generally sings once or twice each month, alternating between the first and second services.



Bruce Blanchard
Interim Chancel Choir Director
and Music Coordinator



Vicky Palmisano
Interim Spirit of Grace Director



Tyler Gruttemeyer
Interim Faith Singers Director



Dawn Donner
Substitute Cherub Choir Director

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music Ministries contact Bruce Blanchard or Vicky Palmisano

Bruce Blanchard
Email: bblanchardh@gmail.com

Vicky Palmisano
Email: vickyp@countrysideucc.org

Alex Ritter - Organist

Tyler Gruttemeyer - Interim Faith Singer Director

Dawn Donner - Substitute Cherub Choir Director

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH



THE BOX FOR MAY AND JUNE

In May & June, we are collecting a whole bunch of items to help make a home for refugee families coming to us through a program with Lutheran Family Services. The list of items needed is too long to list here, but includes most things that you would want/need for everyday life in Omaha, NE and not have at a refugee camp (so pretty much everything). A "registry" of items has been created which is available to view on the church's website: countrysideucc.org/serving-together/refugee-support/. Copies of the list are available in the Foyer next to The Box.

SPECIAL OFFERING UPDATE

Inclusive Communities gratefully received a total of \$8,732.52 from our 2016 Special Easter Offering. The funds will go towards supporting "IncluCity", a four-day leadership and skill building camp for high school student delegates teaching them how to deal with prejudice, bigotry, discrimination and then sharing their new perspectives with others. Thank you, Countryside members and visitors, for your generosity.

The current focus of Countryside Christian Outreach is to connect with organizations that are making a powerful impact and nurturing the concept of inclusiveness and to identify appropriate opportunities for hands-on volunteering. If you are thinking of an organization that should be considered for Special Offerings, Small Service Group Grants (SSG), or that we could help through The Box, we welcome and encourage your recommendations!

QUESTIONS?

If you would like more information regarding Countryside Christian Outreach, email christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org. To find out about how you can volunteer at the food pantry, contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org.

Christian Outreach embraces opportunities that reflect appreciation, respect, and love where there was otherwise much neglect - providing funding and service opportunities that nurture lasting change in our congregation, our community, and our world.

The Box

...is where specific items are collected each month to address various needs. "The Suitcase" is where we continuously collect hotel-size toiletries. Both are in the Foyer near the front doors.

Community Cupboard

A large mobile food pantry takes place right here at Countryside on the first Saturday of each month from 8:00-11:30AM. You are invited to come witness this miracle happening!

Holiday Offerings (Christmas and Easter)

Each year the Board of Christian Outreach directs two special mission offerings—the Christmas and Easter offerings. These offerings are given to organizations both locally and internationally.

Small Service Grants (SSG)

Countryside members who volunteer with local groups/events may apply for small grants (<\$500) to cover materials and supplies. Contact us or find the SSG request forms on the church website.

RELOCATION UPDATE

MAY UPDATE

Our church family is urgently called to invest in the future of Countryside and her mission. Please carefully read the Relocation Campaign materials that you have received. With prayerful consideration of your gift, we are confident that together we will meet the financial goals of this latest opportunity for our church. Those members in the decades before us built, in the midst of cornfields and mud, the building that has served our needs for many years. What vision and hope they had! Now it is our turn to continue their legacy of vision and confidence in Countryside's future. Our children will thank us for the sacrifices we make today for their future as Christians, in concert with our Tri-Faith neighbors, in a world that cries out for love and understanding.

Relocation Campaign Chairmen, Cyndi Kugler and Don Otis, would like to have all pledges committed by June 1, 2016. Only then will Countryside know where we stand financially and only then can we move forward in our building project. The 3-5 year window for payment of pledges encourages all of us to pledge generously to ensure our success.

Each time the CRC and our architectural team meet with congregational members valuable feedback is received. The three informational meetings, held after the April 10th unveiling of the Schematic Design, provided another opportunity for an exchange of information on our building project. Thank you to all who participated. Schematic Design drawings will be displayed in the Commons for the next weeks. Please take the opportunity to look at them. The CRC welcomes your comments and questions.

Between now and May 12 there will be small group meetings held regarding specific aspects of the building design. Some of the areas that will be discussed are: building security, audio-visual needs, interior finishes, administrative spaces and others. Key stakeholders for each area and our architectural design team will participate. On May 12 HGA and APM Architects will present a Schematic Design Update to the CRC, the CRAC (Advisory Committee) and the Building Sub-Committee Chairmen. Watch this space for further details!



PLEDGE NOW

Pledges are due June 1, 2016

www.countrysideucc.org/donate

To stay informed of what is happening with the relocation efforts, look for the Relocation icon in Countryside's communications: the display area outside the church office, weekly C10 emails, monthly newsletter, and the Countryside website www.countrysideucc.org.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or comments, see one of the following committee members: Rick MacInnes, Tim Kerrigan, Cyndi Kugler, Paul Nelson, Pam Kregg and Nancy Behringer or email crc@countrysideucc.org.



LIFE MINISTRIES



SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Lunch Bunch Circle

Lunch Bunch Circle is touring Boys Town and enjoying lunch on Monday, May 9. Contact Gloria Ried at g-g.ried@cox.net for additional information.

UPCOMING IN MAY AND JUNE

Buck a Bagel, Dollar A Donut

This is the theme for our May brunch, which will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 15. This brunch is sponsored by the Family Activities Committee members and will feature Jo on the Go coffee and smoothies. Check out the flyer in this month's newsletter for all the information.

Transforming the Heartland-Pride Festival

Once again, Countryside Community Church will be showing our support for the LGBT community by our presence at Pride Omaha. The festival will be held on June 25th at Stinson Park in Aksarben Village (67th and Center). As in previous years, we will be handing out stickers with a link to our open and affirming message. In addition, we will be wearing and distributing buttons in support of our transgender brothers and sisters. In June, we will be looking for volunteers to man the booth. Join us!! Direct any question to Diane Scott at Twang56@aol.com or 402-707-1556

Financial Peace University

Classes will be held on Thursday nights through the summer at Countryside Church starting June 20 at 6:30 PM in the Chapel. Facilitator Mike Potter has generously volunteered his time to help folks get their financial life back in control. Be watching for additional forthcoming information.

THANK YOU

Wednesday Night Suppers

Thanks to our various WNA supper providers for their outstandingly delicious meals...Maureen Hornacek and Stacey Bauer's group, Joan Allen, Mike/Stacy Murphey and Emily Ethington's group, Steve and Dinah Gomez, Dave and Maria Gaebler, Karen Fitzgerald's group, Jennifer Magilton and family, Mary Jo and Larry Weise and the FatE committee! Thanks for providing us meals this year, organizing, shopping, cooking and serving! You all did an outstanding job of providing us with not only great meals but also warm fellowship and a chance to come together as family.

All Church Clean up

Volunteer highlights for May shine on our hard-working folks who spruced up the church on Saturday, April 9. A contingency of roughly 70 volunteers from all eight leadership boards along with our church Moderators and the Boy Scout Troop that meets at Countryside weekly, spent their Saturday morning washing windows, cleaning up the grounds, vacuuming, dusting, scrubbing tables/chairs, staining and much more! You all did an amazing job and we thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to Countryside Community Church!

Life Ministry supports and improves the quality and "wellness" of family life. Life Ministry strives to engage people in a wide variety of social and educational activities for individuals and families. It is designed to strengthen family bonds and provide outreach in support of family members. Life Ministry also brings strength and continuity to Countryside's volunteer base by advising staff and by serving as a conduit between congregation and Countryside's Life Ministry and Volunteer programs.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Life Ministries contact Mary Beth Link.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 112

Email: marybethl@countrysideucc.org

VOLUNTEER CORNER

THE LIST

The List is the way we share of our time and talent with one another. Each week we lift up an opportunity to volunteer within a specific ministry at Countryside. Check the Order of Worship each Sunday or the weekly email to learn what is the List for each week.

Wednesday Night Supper Teams for the 2016-17

Four additional teams are needed to complete our teams for next fall's Wednesday Night Alive suppers! Your time commitment would be only once every 6 weeks! If you would like more information, contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org or stop by the Information Station.

Mobile Meals

We are currently looking for 2-3 more volunteers for two hours a month who would be willing to give of their time so that others may be fed. The schedule through May of 2016 is now being created. If interested stop by the Information Station.

Pride Fest Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to work the Countryside table at the 2016 Pride Fest, Saturday, June 25 at Stinson Park. Diane Scott is heading up Countryside's presence again this year. She will be in the Foyer taking sign-ups beginning June 12. Mark your calendars now!

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed for the Pantry on May 7. Any and all age groups are welcome. Ability to lift, bend and stand on your feet for extended periods of time are appreciated. If interested contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countrysideucc.org or Andi Lawlor at communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org

Kitchen

Looking for 2-3 dedicated volunteers who would take responsibility for Countryside's kitchens on a weekly basis. This would involve putting dishes away, wiping counters, emptying dishwasher and keeping an inventory of necessary supplies. If interested, then stop by the Information Station on Sunday morning.

Dish Disciples

Volunteers are needed to help with washing mugs after the 11AM worship service. If interested, contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

Volunteer Receptionists

We are currently seeking 6-10 individuals who would help out in the front office receptionist's desk during the week. You can pick your time frame; hours are 8:30-11:30 AM or 12:00 to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. For more information, contact either Dan Loven or Mary Beth Link at 402-391-0350.

SOCIAL GROUPS

Family Activities Committee

This group offers educational and social opportunities that strengthen family bonds and support all family members. Open to families with children, birth through 12 years old. They meet on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10 AM in the Family Life Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Events that are Totally Cool (ETC)

This group encourages commitment to making church a priority through active participation in fun, faith and fellowship events. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Knit-n-Wit

Join in the fun as you learn to knit, continue an existing project or teach others to knit/crochet. Open to knitters of all skill-levels. Meets every Wednesday from 6 to 8 PM at Whole Foods. Contact Jeanne Cunningham at jkcunningham@cox.net.

WNA Supper Group

This group consists of volunteers in our congregation. If there is a meal you and your family really love, then share it with the church on Wednesday evenings beginning in September. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Women's Lunch Group

This multi-generational group, open to all women, meets at noon on the 1st Monday of each month at First Watch, 1222 S 71 St. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Nine-to-Dine

Consisting of 9 individuals, this group meets on a monthly basis at various restaurants in Omaha or sometimes someone's home for a nice home-cooked meal. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Lunch Bunch Circle

This group meets for lunch as well as special programming on the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. Contact Gloria Ried at g-g.ried@cox.net.

FAME (Friday Art & Music Experience)

This group dabbles with watercolor paints and adult coloring books. We listen to music, laugh a lot, share stories and a pot of coffee (or two!), and enjoy being together. Contact Pam Kregg at 402-896-3866.

Men's Breakfast Group

This group of Countryside men (all ages) share their breakfast at 7 AM every Tuesday morning, at Rockbrook's Garden Café. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Countryside's Angels Bicycling

This new group is open to anyone (all ages) interested in bicycling. They meet periodically when the weather is calling them to ride! Contact Mark Stursma at mstursma@yahoo.com.

EDUCATION GROUPS

Faith and the Environment (FATE)

This group promotes spirituality through environmental education, advocacy and simple acts of kindness within Countryside and beyond. They meet on the 1st Monday of the month, 5:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Ann Naylor at annnaylor@cox.net.

LGBTQ 101

LGBTQ 101 is a monthly class held on the 2nd Thursday of each month and is facilitated by PFLAG members. The class covers LGBTQ issues and increases awareness of gender identity and expression. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Adult Education

See full listing under Center for Faith Studies on page 4.

Journey Groups

See full listing under Journey Groups on page 5.

HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUPS

T'ai Chi Chih®

TCC is a series of gentle movements that can be done by anyone. This group meets every Monday at 10 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

InterPlay

This interactive group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:30 - 10 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Church Council

Between congregational meetings, the Church Council acts upon all issues facing the Church. They establish the overall policy of the Church and work with the staff on the general direction of the activities of the Church: Meets the 3rd Thursday after the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Jennifer Hamann, Moderator, at moderator@countysideucc.org.

Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO)

This board nurtures outreach projects, coordinates efforts within the church to develop mission themes, and selects organizations to receive special offering grants: Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Contact board chair Sarah Miller at swaetzig14@hotmail.com

Board of Christian Education (BOCE)

This board brings strength and stability to Countryside's educational efforts by advising staff and providing both adults and children with educational programs: Meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM. Contact board chair Bill Sellgren at sellgren3@cox.net

Board of Art & Music (BAM)

This board provides sincere, artful and spiritual experiences for the congregation: Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact board chair Brenda Stursma at brenda.stursma@gmail.com

Board of Life Ministries (BOLM)

This board oversees all social activities, volunteer coordination and family based educational classes held at Countryside. Contact board chair Mary Johnston at zjeesgram@aol.com

Board of Youth (BOY)

This board brings strength and stability to COYO through development, planning and management for our youth programs. Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM. Contact board chair Mike Murphy at mike@nelsonmurphyinvest.com

Board of Trustees

This board oversees the financial and property concerns for Countryside, including stewardship, budgeting process and regular review of the financial position of the church. This board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Contact board chair Tim Kerrigan, at tgerrigan@investorsomaha.com

Board of Pastoral Care

This board promotes staff and lay ministry efforts to support contact and comfort church and community members, focusing on people facing difficult times in their lives. This board meets quarterly at 5 PM. Contact board chair, Tom Scates at omahascats@cox.net.

Board of Deacons

This board is responsible for any church tasks that are related to worship and fellowship as well as communicating with new members and visitors. Meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7PM. Contact board chair, Bonnie Buckland at bonniebuckland@outlook.com.

Nominating Committee

This committee is composed of 9 - 12 church members including past chairs of the boards and moderator. They meet weekly from September through November. The mission of the Nominating Committee is to recruit church members to serve on the eight leadership boards at Countryside Church, the vice moderator-elect, and the church delegates who attend Nebraska's Annual Conference of the United Church of Christ. Contact board co-chairs France Blanchard at fblanchardh@gmail.com or Pam Kregg at pamgg@cox.net





More Than A Joke



Sean O'Casey's Pub

2523 S. 140 Ave.

Sunday evenings | April 17 - May 22

5-6:30 PM Full menu available

What happens when a Jewish rabbi, a Christian minister, and a Muslim leader walk into a pub? While humor is sure to ensue, what happens is more than a joke! Join Tri-Faith Initiative leaders Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes, and Dr. Syed Mohiuddin as they explore the common ground the three Abrahamic faiths share - and their differences - in matters of faith, culture, spirituality, and justice.



WORSHIP SERIES
April 3 - May 22



Turning Trash into Money

Terracycle is an organization that buys our "trash" makes things out of it, and sends us money! Countryside is collecting Solo Cups, foil lined energy bar wrappers and personal care products like shampoo bottles and empty makeup containers. Visit the bins next to the Youth Room for more information.



GET INVOLVED

Faith And The Environment (FATE) Committee

FATE works as a community to promote spirituality through environmental education, advocacy and simple acts at Countryside and beyond. Get involved with some of our projects by visiting us on Facebook or on the Website.

Visit the website to find links to organizations and more ways to contribute to the sustainability of Countryside.

www.countrysideucc.org/learning-together/fate

facebook.com/faithandtheenvironment



WHEN DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION

Dr. Sehr Haroon
and
Abdullah Alalo
Syrian Refugee Crisis:
How can we help?

Thursday, May 12 at 7 PM
Countryside Community Church

Free & open to the public

Co-sponsored by
Lutheran Family Services,
Temple Israel and
First United Methodist Church



CENTER FOR
FAITH STUDIES

See page 4 for details